



## INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-01-0041

November 3, 2005

### LIGHTS

*Inspector General David O. Thomas reports to Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., as follows:*

A new method has been developed to save money by turning out the lights after business hours in Indiana Government Centers (IGC) North and South. Department of Administration (DOA) Deputy Commissioner Brian Renner and other DOA employees actively participated in this investigation.

#### I.

Many Indiana state agencies are housed in IGC North and South in Indianapolis. These are the two largest state office buildings and are located just west of the Statehouse.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) started in the Ethics Commission office space in room W198 in IGC South. Upon leaving the first evening in January, two unusual events were noticed. First, there were no light switches to turn off the lights. Second, all the lights in the office, and all the other offices in

the building, were on even though the employees had left for the evening. Upon walking outside, it was observed that the lights were likewise left on in both IGC buildings.

After attending the State of the State address on the night of January 18, 2005, it was observed that the lights in both IGCs were still on. It was on this night at approximately ten o'clock p.m. that the following photographs were taken of IGC North and South, respectively, with a cellular telephone digital camera.



Fellow employees were asked why there were no light switches and why the lights were left on long after employees had left. The only response was that this was the way it had been done for years.

Upon inquiry to night maintenance workers, the same response was given. Some indicated that the lights were sometimes left on all night. Others believed that the lights remained on until one o'clock a.m. so that the cleaning crews could perform their duties throughout both buildings.

An investigation commenced.

## II.

Inquiry was then made to the State Auditor's Office regarding the cost of this situation. State Auditor Connie Nass responded that she also had a concern about the lights being on in the IGC buildings and had voiced this to the DOA in the past. State Auditor records show that Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL) supplies the electricity for these two buildings.

A review of these bills and payments by the State Auditor's Office reveals that in 2004, the monthly IGC North electric bill cost taxpayers approximately \$85,000, and the monthly IGC South electric bill ran an additional \$60,000, for a total annual electric bill between the two buildings exceeding \$1.7 million.

A monthly breakdown is as follows:

	IGC North	IGC South
January	\$ 82,596	\$ 56,282
February	\$ 76,550	\$ 53,908
March	\$ 84,295	\$ 61,639
April	\$ 83,514	\$ 60,470
May	\$ 86,763	\$ 60,338
June	\$ 82,041	\$ 72,647
July	\$ 88,588	\$ 66,049
August	\$ 88,936	\$ 66,103
September	\$ 86,621	\$ 66,609
October	\$ 86,622	\$ 63,881
November	\$ 86,522	\$ 59,467
December	<u>\$ 89,966</u>	<u>\$ 59,272</u>
	\$1,023,014	\$ 746,665

TOTAL payments to IPL in 2004: \$1,769,679

### III.

We next consulted DOA Deputy Commissioner Brian Renner about the situation. DOA is charged with maintaining these buildings for the State of Indiana. We were pleased to find that he was working on the same project. He gave the following information.

DOA is implementing a new maintenance program to address the after-hours lighting of IGC North and South. He confirmed that the lights in both buildings had previously been left on through the night to accommodate maintenance crews. A new plan, however, is being implemented to light only a particular floor or area for the maintenance workers to complete their tasks. The workers will then indicate by radio that they are moving to another area where the lights will be turned on only so long as to complete their tasks in that area. This

nightly pattern will continue until the maintenance in both buildings is complete.<sup>1</sup>

Deputy Renner advised that turning the lights on and off in this manor may be accomplished through a central computer control area.

#### IV.

The Office of Inspector General makes the following findings:

##### A.

The after-hour lighting of the IGC North and South buildings needs to be addressed.

##### B.

The proposal initiated by DOA Deputy Renner is a plausible solution.

##### C.

Projected savings could be as follows. There are approximately 28,000 four-foot fluorescent bulbs in IGC North and South.<sup>2</sup> The approximate hourly cost for the operation of each bulb is \$0.01.<sup>3</sup>

With these figures, approximately \$280 is spent every hour when IGC North and South are fully lit.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deputy Renner also discussed the situation regarding the lack of manual light switches in the office spaces. He related that a study had been pursued in 2001 which revealed that the approximate capital outlay would be \$5 million, arguably an obstacle to the resulting savings.

<sup>2</sup> Deputy Renner reports that in IGC North and South combined, there are 14,000 light fixtures with two, four-foot bulbs in each.

<sup>3</sup> This information was provided by Rick Burger, the Cinergy district manager for the Terre Haute area.

<sup>4</sup> Other electrical charges include the use of computers, ventilation fans and other devices which require electricity.

As most state offices in Indianapolis close at 4:30 p.m., there could be several hours of savings each night with this new method. Assuming 250 workdays per year, the following formula shows an approximate annual savings if only three hours of lighted time are saved daily at IGC North and South:

28,000 fluorescent lights x \$0.01 per hour = \$280  
x 3 hours per night = \$840  
x 250 workdays per year = \$210,000 annual savings.<sup>5</sup>

The OIG recommends that this new procedure commence immediately.

Dated this 3rd day of November, 2005.



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David O. Thomas, Inspector General

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<sup>5</sup> This estimate of savings could be conservative. Assuming the lights go off at 6 pm (1 ½ hours after the end of the normal work day), and assuming an addition one hour of burn time for cleaning, this leaves six hours of savings (twice the savings as computed above).